Claims

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more Mucuna pruriens seed components, substances, fractions or mixtures of substances obtained therefrom and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, excipient or carrier.

2. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the components, substances, fractions or mixtures of substances are obtained by extraction of Mucuna pruriens seeds.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 2, wherein the components, substances, fractions or mixtures of substances obtained from Mucuna pruriens seed extracts comprise bipolar-lipophilic molecules.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the composition is formulated as an infusion solution, an injection solution, a gelatin-capsule, a tablet, or a controlled release tablet.

5. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 4, comprising (a) a neurostimulatory extract of Mucuna pruriens selected from the group consisting of M-PL0100, M-EL100, M-BL0100 and LAT543-0 or (b) a neuroprotective extract of Mucuna pruriens selected from the group consisting of M-W-EL1299, M-W0100, MWEL0700 and M-ML0100.

6. Use of Mucuna pruriens seeds or of one or more components, substances, fractions or mixtures of substances obtained or extracted from Mucuna pruriens for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition
   (a) for inhibiting L-Dopa and/or dopamine metabolism;
   (b) for improved L-Dopa absorption, resulting in an earlier onset of L-Dopa efficacy; and

(c) for a longer duration of L-Dopa efficacy.

7. Use of Mucuna pruriens seeds or of one or more components, substances, fractions or mixtures of substances obtained or extracted from Mucuna pruriens for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for neuroprotection or neurostimulation.

8. Use of one or more Mucuna pruriens components, substances, fractions or mixtures of substances obtained or extracted from Mucuna pruriens for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for preventing, alleviating or treating a neurological disease.

9. The use of claim 8, wherein the neuronal disease is a neurological degenerative disease.

10. The use according to claim 9, wherein the neurological degenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of Huntington's disease and Alzheimer's disease or other diseases which are caused by exogenic or endogenic factors.

11. The use according to claim 9, wherein the neurological degenerative disease is Parkinson's disease.

12. The use of claim 11, wherein Parkinson's disease is treated by preventing acute or chronic L-Dopa toxicity.

13. The use of any one of claims 6 to 12, wherein the components, substances, fractions or mixtures of substances obtained or extracted from Mucuna pruriens are selected from the group consisting of alkaloids, proteins, peptides, polysaccharides, glycosides, glycoproteins, sterols, phophatids, fatty acids and amino acids.

14. The use of any one of claims 6 to 13, wherein the components, substances, fractions or mixtures of substances isolated from Mucuna pruriens do not contain a pharmaceutically effective amount of L-dopa.

15. The use of any one of claims 6 to 14, wherein at least one alcohol or mixtures of two or more alcohols selected from the group consisting of hexanol, butanol, ethanol, methanol, isopropanol and n-propanol are used for the extraction process.

16. The use of claims 6 to 14, wherein at least one organic solvent or mixtures of two or more solvents selected from the group consisting of chloroform, CO_2 , hypercritical CO_2, ether, DMSO, hexane, ethylacetate, dichlormethane and acetone is used for the extraction process.

17. The use of claims 6 to 14, wherein at least one polar solvent or mixtures of two or more polar solvents selected from the group consisting of water, ethanol, methanol, propanol and isopropanol is used for the extraction process.

18. The use of any one of claims 15 to 17, wherein two or more solvents selected from the group of alcohols, organic solvents and polar solvents used for the extraction process.

19. The use of claim 6 to 18, wherein the extraction is fractionated extraction.

20. The use of any one of claims 6 to 19, wherein the extract of Mucuna pruriens is (a) a neurostimulatory extract of Mucuna pruriens selected from the group consisting of M-PL0100, M-EL100, M-BL0100 and LAT543-0 or (b) a neuroprotective extract of Mucuna pruriens selected from the group consisting of M-W-EL1299, M-W0100, MWEL0700 and M-ML0100.

21. A method of preparing extracts or extract-fractions of Mucuna pruriens comprising:

(a) extracting seeds of Mucuna pruriens with n-hexane to provide a first extract solution;

(b) filtering the first extract solution;

(c) extracting the filter retentate of (b) with acetone to provide a second extract solution;

(d) filtering the second extract solution;

(e) extracting the filter retentate of (d) with a 1:1 mixture of water and ethanol containing 0,5% ascorbic acid to provide third extract solution;

(f) filtering the third extract solution;

(g) repeating at least four times the extraction procedure of (e) with the retentate obtained by (f); and

(h) concentrating the pooled extract solutions.

22. A method of preparing extracts or extract-fractions of Mucuna pruriens comprising:

(a) extracting seeds of Mucuna pruriens with an alcohol to provide a first extract solution, wherein the alcohol is methanol, ethanol and/or propanol;

(b) filtering the first extract solution;

(c) repeating at least two times the extraction procedure of (a) with the retentate obtained by (b); and

(d) concentrating the pooled extract solutions.

23. The method of claim 21 or 22, further comprising solubilizing said extract or extract-fractions of Mucuna pruriens obtained in step (h) of claim 21 or step (d) of claim 22, respectively in a solvent comprising DMSO and/or distilled water.

24. A method for the preparation of extracts or extract fractions of Mucuna pruriens, comprising extracting the seed of Mucuna pruriens with CO_2 or mixtures from CO_2 and butane, propane or other gases under

supercritical conditions or different pressures and temperatures, to obtain purification and selection of substances or fractionation of Mucuna pruriens extracts.

25. Use of the extract or extract-fractions of Mucuna pruriens obtainable by the method of any one of claims 21 to 23 for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for treating neuronal diseases.

26. The use of any one of claims 6 to 20 or of claim 25, wherein Mucuna pruriens is used in comminuted form, in unmodified form, as granules, powder, precipitate, fraction, extract, dried extract and/or exudate, preferably as extract.

27. The use of any one of claims 6 to 20 or of claim 25 or 26, wherein one or more of the Mucuna pruriens components, substances, fractions or mixtures of substances obtained therefrom are used in combination with one or more other active agents.

28. The use of any one of claims 6 to 20 or of any one of claims 25 to 27, wherein the Mucuna pruriens components, substances, fractions or mixtures of substances are formulated as infusion solution, injection solution, for oral forms of application, as a therapeutic pack, a granulate, a food supplement or in form of clysters.

29. The use of any one of 6 to 20 or of any one of claims 25 to 28, wherein the application is oral application, topical application or parenteral application.

30. A kit comprising one or more containers filled with Mucuna pruriens components, substances, fractions or mixtures of substances or the pharmaceutical compositions of claim 1 to 5.